# State of Idaho

## DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Are You Covered? Check Your Insurance Coverage When Going to College

In the flurry of getting ready for college this fall, students may overlook the most important aspects of their new life—making sure their health and property are protected.

A serious illness or injury could have major consequences for students without health insurance. Their personal property, such as computers, furniture, bikes, or other items may also be at risk if it is damaged, lost or stolen.

"College costs are high enough," said Bill Deal, Director of the Idaho Department of Insurance. "Parents don't need the unpleasant financial surprise of an insurance claim that is denied because their child isn't properly covered. We recommend that parents carefully review their homeowners, auto and health insurance policies to determine exactly what is – and is not – covered for their college-bound children."

#### Health Insurance

In order to enroll in an Idaho college, students must be insured. Students and their parents should review their health insurance coverage to make sure the student is covered. Students and their parents should make sure the coverage is adequate. Be sure the student has a copy of the relevant insurance cards and knows about obtaining referrals and approvals before seeking treatment. In Idaho, many dependents are eligible for coverage under their parents' policy until they are 25, if they are financially dependent upon their parents and are unmarried. Most Idaho colleges offer coverage. Carefully read your policy or talk to your insurance agent.

# College Students and Auto Insurance

Parents and college students should do some homework regarding auto insurance. If a college student is going to be using the family vehicle when visiting home, parents should make sure the child is listed by name on the family's auto insurance policy. If the student will be taking a car with them to school, parents should check the specific rates for the college's city and state before deciding whether to keep their child on the family's auto policy. In addition, the insurance company should be notified each semester if the student maintains good grades, as that accomplishment might lower premiums.

#### College Students and Renter's Insurance

Whether students live in college housing or rent apartments, they will likely have valuables — such as a computer, TV, stereo and/or video game system — that could be stolen or destroyed in a fire or natural disaster. Parents should check their homeowners policy to see whether it will cover a college student's possessions. Furthermore, if students live in an off-campus apartment, parents should consider purchasing renter's insurance through their existing homeowners insurance provider.

For more information, visit <a href="www.doi.idaho.gov">www.doi.idaho.gov</a> and click on the link to Insure U, a consumer resource that provides information about insurance for all life stages. The Insure U site is also available in Spanish.